

MORIS (MIT Optical Rapid Imaging System) Guide

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The short-term goal of this document is to provide a consolidated location for notes on the setup of MORIS on the IRTF. Longer-term, this document can serve as a basis for the operating and user manuals.

The official MORIS website is <http://occult.mit.edu/instrumentation/POETS/IRTF/index.html>. The *Documents* tab contains electronic versions of all documents, user manuals, and schematics. Password protection is user “poets” with password “POETS@IRTF”.

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MOUNTING CHECKLIST

See the schematic in Figure 1 for the IRTF POETS setup.

Important note: power should be **off** when attaching and detaching cables. The best way to setup is to have all power off, connect everything, then turn all power on.

Items to check in order to confirm proper hardware setup for POETS usage:

- Foreoptics box mounted on side of SpeX
- Camera mounted on bottom of fore-optics box
- Manual shutter between POETS and SpeX is *open*
- BNC cable attached to GPS antenna at top of telescope
- BNC cable attached to “antenna” port on back of GPS
- Serial octopus cable plugged into the back of the GPS
- 36-pin white cable attached to camera and back of computer
- Camera power cable plugged into jack on camera and an outlet
- SMB plugged into the “external trigger” connection on camera and the “output” BNC on the GPS octopus cable
- Warm room cable connected to back of computer
- Computer power cable plugged into computer and an outlet
- GPS power cable plugged into jack on the GPS octopus cable and an outlet
- Power on for the following:
 - (i) GPS [lights on front will glow];
 - (ii) camera [can’t confirm power on until software is started];
 - (iii) computer [lights on front will glow].
- Confirm that computer power and connection are functional by bringing up display in the warm room
- Can confirm that GPS is connected by clicking on “Spectrum” icon on the Windows desktop: if no connection is made, an error message will appear
- Can confirm that camera is working by clicking on the “Andor iXon” icon on Windows desktop: if no connection is made, an error message will appear
- Can confirm that camera power is working by watching the red cooling notice at the bottom left of the camera software display – it should read below “0° C” within a minute or two of the software startup

**POETS (Portable Occultation, Eclipse, and Transit System)
Setup Schematic for the IRTF**

This schematic is NOT TO SCALE!!

GREEN = shipped or carried from MIT for install on 29 APR
ORANGE = supplied by IRTF

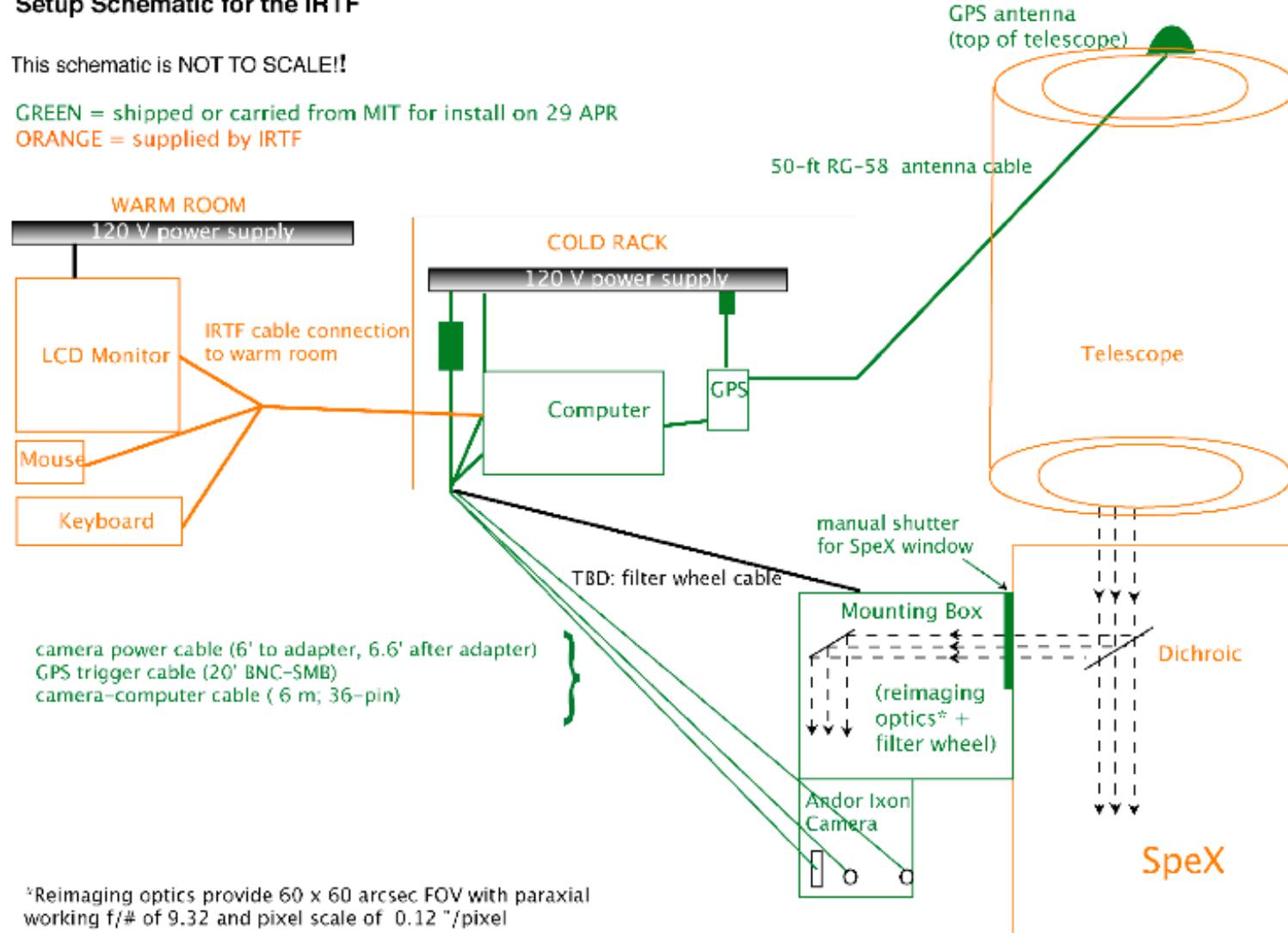


Figure 1. Schematic for the setup of POETS on the IRTF

ACCESSING POETS ON THE IRTF

There are two ways to run the IRTF POETS. One is by traveling to Mauna Kea and controlling the instrument *locally* from the IRTF control room. The other is by *remote observing* from a machine that has VNC and sufficient bandwidth.

Local Observing

- (1) The computer and GPS should be powered on when the instrument is mounted. If they are not, follow the cable guide from the camera to the cold bay in which the computer resides. Press the power switch on the front to turn on power.
- (2) There is a workstation with multiple monitors in the IRTF control room facing the entrance door. Log in using your guest account, and follow the remote observing instructions below.
- (3) The system is now ready to operate. The instructions below for Solis, the GPS software, and the filter wheel software should be followed.

Remote Observing

- (1) To observe remotely, you must first establish a guest account. Use the following from a terminal line in a terminal window:
 - a. localmachine% ssh addguest@stefan.ifa.hawaii.edu
 - b. password for both stefan and duke is "irtf"
 - c. enter the PI's name (e.g. Gulbis)
 - d. enter the observing program number (e.g. 049)
 - e. note your guest number (e.g. guest21)
 - f. assign a password to your account – note that if you make a typo when confirming your password, you will lose the account. So if you think you made a mistake when entering passwords, use ctrl-U to delete and reenter.
- (2) Login to your stefan account:
 - a. localmachine% ssh -X -2 -A guest#@stefan.ifa.hawaii.edu (using your new guest number)
 - b. enter password from 1.f.
- (3) Connect to the POETS computer:
 - a. Following (2), in terminal window start vnc to POETS: stefan% vncviewer poetspc (password irtfirtf). This method appears to not require the daily password.
- **OR** use a VNC application:
 - b. download RealVNC Enterprise Client software onto your machine from www.realvnc.com. Click "Download and try" for the Enterprise Edition, fill out the form, and then scroll down to the "Viewer Only" section to download the version for your operating system.
 - c. **Get the daily password from the TO or contact astronomer and the window numbers for POETS (usually through a virtual machine 13) and SpeX (directly at 2).** You can contact the telescope operator at (808) 974-4210 (or any member of the IRTF staff). The password is used on all instrument VNC servers and changes daily at 7:00 AM.

d. start VNCViewer application on your machine with the following parameters:

VNC Server: stefan.ifa.hawaii.edu:13

Password: given that day, changes at 7 AM

A remote desktop will appear on Stefan. From that machine, enter
%vncviewer poetcspc (password irtfirtf)

e. Note that the command “vnc –show” gives the display numbers for each instrument. There are 11 permanent displays assigned to instruments at this time. They are:

1 - bigdog
2 - guidedog
3 - nsfcam2
4 - nsfcam2
5 - m2 (mirsi2)
6 - m2 (mirsi2)
7 - cshell (instrument)
8 - cshell (guider)
9 - autofocus
10 - t3remote
11 – apogee

Can open t3remote for position and focus change, and for sending next object coordinates to the TO, by right clicking in guidedog, then selecting from menu. Alternately, type “t3remote”.

Users are encouraged to use starcat2 to submit targets
(<http://irtfweb.ifa.hawaii.edu/~tcs3/starcat2/>).

f. To end the session, close the VNC client.

Notes on VNC on the POETS computer

- We installed VNC software onto the IRTF POETS computer (software downloaded from IfA computer **stefan** in directory /hilo_shared/win_stuff /software/vnc). It is configured with password “irtfirtf”.
- VNC service should start automatically on the POETS computer. This computer should display a small icon on the lower right dock when VNC is running.
- As an IRTF observer, you will be assigned a login as guest# (where # is a number) on **stefan** for some days before and after your run. You log in to **stefan** in order to run POETS.

Running SpeX for POETS users

a. Follow (3)b & c above.

b. Start VNC on your local machine with the following parameters:

VNC Server: stefan.ifa.hawaii.edu:2

Password: given that day, changes at 7 AM

c. The settings below are standard for using SpeX simultaneously with POETS. They are altered by clicking on the row of icons near the bottom of the lefthand GuideDog user window.

Lamp/Mirror = off/out

(*at end of night, put mirror IN*)

Dichroic = 0.9
OS filter = open (*at end of night, set to 14:blank/closed*)
Rotator = 0.0
Slit = mirror/blank
G Flt = whatever filter desired for guiding and imaging (J is the usual)

- d. To end the session, return instrument settings to the positions noted above and close the VNC client. Do NOT close the instrument GUIs.

A BRIEF CAMERA SOFTWARE (SOLIS) USER GUIDE

The POETS computer is turned on by pressing the silver button on its front. A Windows XP desktop should appear automatically. If for any reason you need to provide a password for the IRTF POETS account, it is KBO_occ@IRTF.

The **bold** text below contains simple instructions for camera operation. Note that the screenshots in Figs. 2-5 are from an earlier version of the Solis software than that currently used at the IRTF and thus may be slightly different; however, the instructions here are valid. *A hard-copy user manual is onsite*, which describes many other features!

Because there is currently no other location in this document for this note, the **image orientation** is such that **N is left and E is down**.

- (1) CLICK on the “Andor iXon” desktop shortcut icon to start the camera software.** (Note that this icon should be near the Spectrum Inst./TM-4 icon that is employed to monitor and send trigger signals from the GPS. Other software shortcuts are provided on the desktop for usefulness, but are not necessary to run the instrument).

- (2) CONFIRM that the camera software starts and presents a screen like that shown in Figure 2.**

- a. Note that the camera S/N should appear in the top bar. This confirms that the software recognizes the camera.
 - b. Note that a pre-existing configuration file should be loaded automatically. This will cause the camera to cool upon startup and ensure that the shutter is closed. (*If you want to change the configuration file, simply set software parameters to your choosing. Then overwrite the .cfg file listed under File ->Configuration Files.*)
 - c. Note that the temperature display in at the lower left is **red**, which indicates that the temperature has not stabilized. That box will turn **blue** when the camera has stabilized at the set temperature.

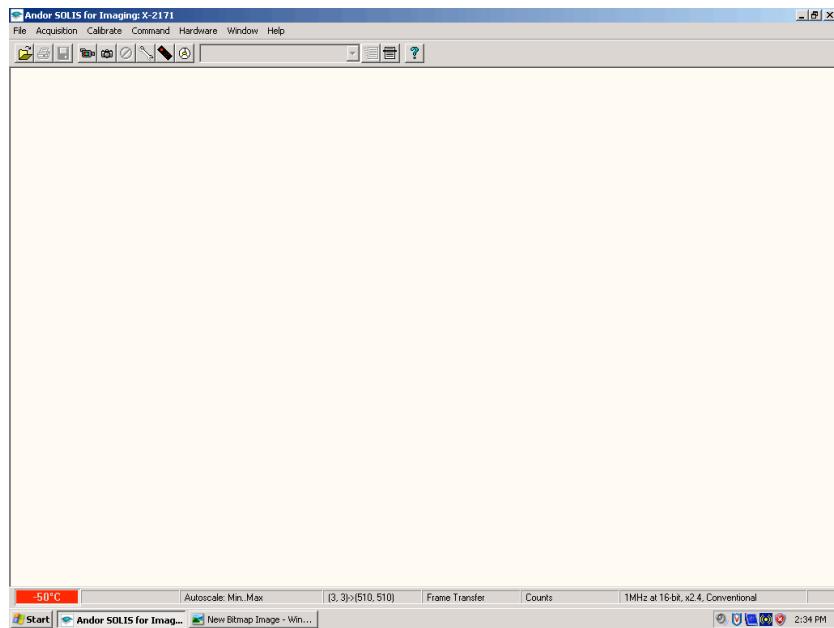


Figure 2. Solis v.4.6.5 (POETS camera software) as it appears upon successful startup.

- (3) **To take data, the shutter must be open. CLICK *Hardware->Shutter Control*, and ensure that the Internal Shutter is set to permanently open.** For longer exposures, a manual shutter setting could be used; however, this mode is not tested.
- (4) **To set data-taking parameters, CLICK on the white wrench icon (denoted by an arrow in Fig. 3) or use the *Acquisition->Setup Acquisition* menu.** Typically, the configuration file starts with the settings shown in Fig. 3. The exposure time, number of exposures, and readout rate amplifier will be the selections that are usually altered between frames.
 - a. “Triggering” should be **Internal** if you plan to take frames using the Solis software; **External Start** if you plan to take a data cube containing the number of frames listed in the Solis software and starting at a GPS trigger; **External** if you want the camera to take a data cube containing the number of frames specified in the Solis software with *each frame* being triggered by a GPS repeat signal. See (9) for sending GPS triggers.

Important note: The camera software and GPS software do **not** communicate with one another. Therefore, you must hand-record the start time of any images triggered via GPS.

- b. Note that the “Shift speed” is the time to shift electrons per CCD row. Number selections listed in brackets will allow the data to read out even more quickly, but are likely to incur some electron loss.
- c. “Readout rate” allows selection of the amplifier: 1 MHz (Conventional & Electron Multiplying; EM), 3 MHz (Conventional & EM), 5 MHz (EM) or 10 MHz (EM). Faster readout rates incur higher read noise – see the specification sheet for details. Note that the EM modes can be run with EM disabled. Usage of EM modes while disabled removes worry that the

avalanche gain will be compromised; however, taking data in this mode (or even with EM enabled at very, very low EM values) is inadvisable because the EM must be high enough to compensate for the higher read noise and excess noise factor in these modes.

- d. Readout gain, in e/ADU, is selected by choosing “Pre-amplifier gain”. See the specification sheet for values corresponding to the listed numbers.
- e. The “Number of prescans” can be set to a non-zero value if you would like to ensure that the first frame of every saved cube does not contain any residual signal. Note that prescans have **not** been used with occultation (or other time-specific) observations. We typically drop the first data frame during analysis.
- f. Ensure that the “Frame Transfer” box is checked. The camera has not been tested in non-frame transfer modes.
- g. Note that frames (.fits or otherwise) can be opened in either the Solis software (under the *File* menu) or in ds9
- h. Note that the WinScp icon on the desktop is a user-friendly interface for transferring files between POETS and stefan, or other remote servers.

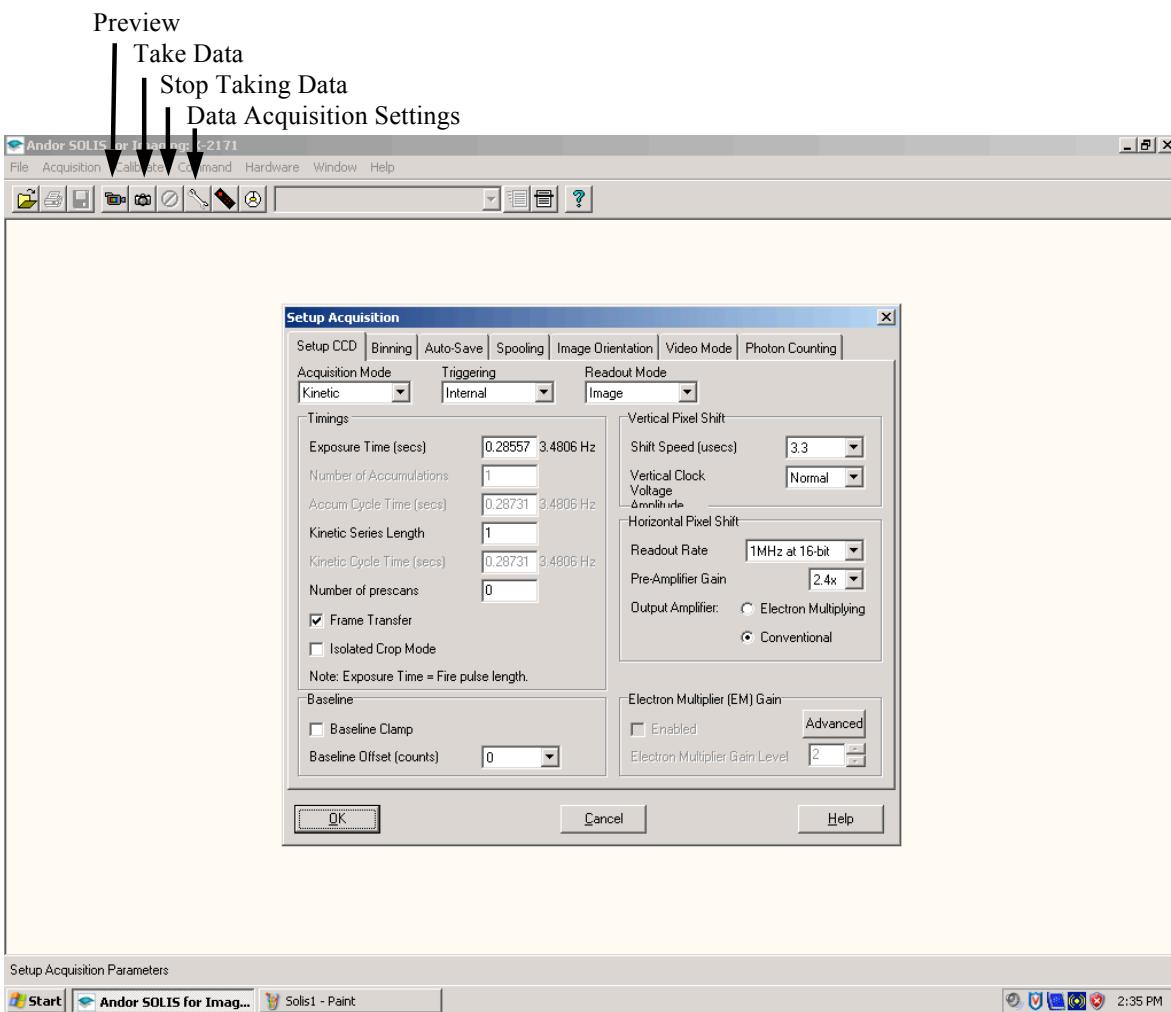


Figure 3. Data acquisition settings for typical operation of the POETS camera.

- (5) **To preview data, (take and see frames without storing) CLICK on the video camera icon labeled “preview” in Fig. 3.** The stop button labeled in Fig. 3 will stop the preview.
- (6) **To take data, CLICK on the camera icon labeled “take data” in Fig. 3.** The stop button labeled in Fig. 3 will abort.

Important Note: The configuration file is currently set to automatically spool, save, and incrementally number the data cubes. (See next item.) If you do *not* want to autospool and save, you must change these settings. With no spooling, any image you take should display and then allow you the option to save and name.

- (7) **To spool and automatically name data, GO TO the Setup Acquisition window and CLICK on the “Spooling” and/or “Auto-Save” tabs.** The typical settings for these are shown in Figs.4a & b. Spooling ensures that every frame is saved – when taking a very large data cube this prevents total data loss should a mid-cube crash occur. When the “Use Append Setting from Autosave tab” is selected, the spooled data are compiled into a data cube and named via the pattern selected in “Auto-save”.

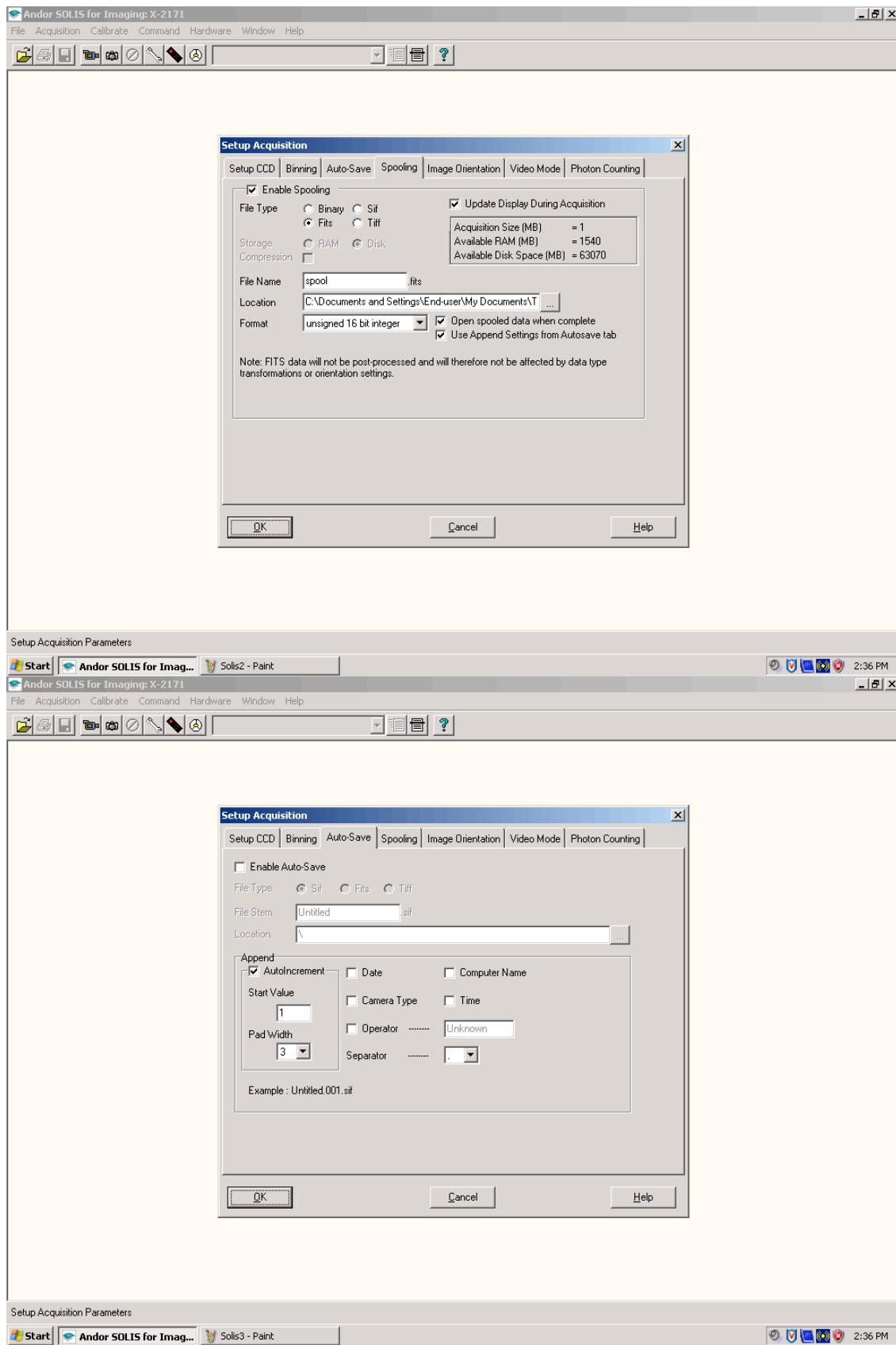


Figure 4. Typical settings for data storage: the “Spooling” and “Auto-save” tabs.

(8) **To change the cooling settings, CLICK on the menu Hardware->Temperature Control.** Adjust the temperature by entering a value in °C or moving the adjustment bar. The cooler should be on and the box for “on at program startup” should be checked. See Fig. 5 for typical settings.

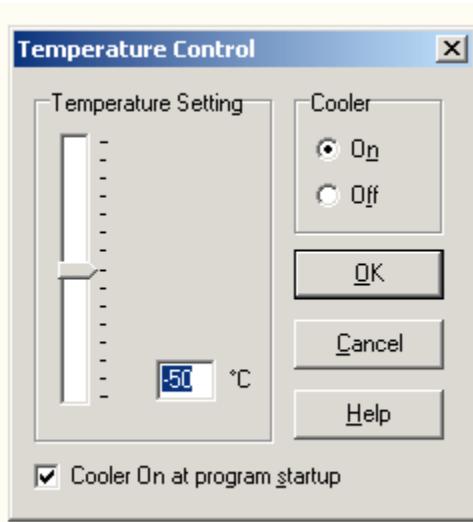


Figure 5. Typical settings for the temperature control panel for POETS. The minimum cooling depends on ambient temperature: for reference, at 68° F the camera can cool to -60C.

(9) **To trigger the camera using the GPS, SELECT all of the acquisition settings you desire. CLICK on the camera icon to take data. Next, enter the GPS software and select POP (lower right). Set start time (UT) and repeat interval, as desired. The camera will sit until it receives the trigger (at the POP time you set), at which point frames will display in the software.**

Important Note: Again, note that the GPS start time is NOT RECORDED anywhere other than when you type it into the GPS software. The time in the FITS header will be that when the take data command was given in the Solis software.

(10) **To close the software, simply click *File->Close*.** The camera fan may continue to run if the software is closed but the computer is still running. It is best to shut down the entire system at the end of each night.

FILTER WHEEL

There is a GUI on the POETS computer screen that allows control of the filter wheel. Fig. 6 shows screen shots of the GUI upon startup and when connected.

- (1) **Click on the icon “shortcut to smgui” on the desktop.** A screen shot of the display is shown below.
- (2) **Click the “connect” button.** The computer will interface with the filter wheel and initialize to position 1.
- (3) To change to the desired filter, select the filter from the drop-down menu under “Control”. Then **click “move to”**.
- (4) Close the GUI by clicking the red X in the upper right corner.

To change the filter listing in the control software, the SmartMotorGUI.java file must be edited and recompiled. Edit the file in a text editor (such as Komodo). Then, on the POETS machine, go to Start -> Run -> and type “cmd”. Cd into the smgui directory (“dir” to see files). Type “make SmartMotorGUI.java”. A new SmartMotorGUI.class file will be created and the GUI will update. Provide a copy of the new file to Tony Denault (denault@ifa.hawaii.edu) for archiving.

Note: notes for Java installation and other filter software are online at irtfweb.ifa.hawaii.edu/~poets.

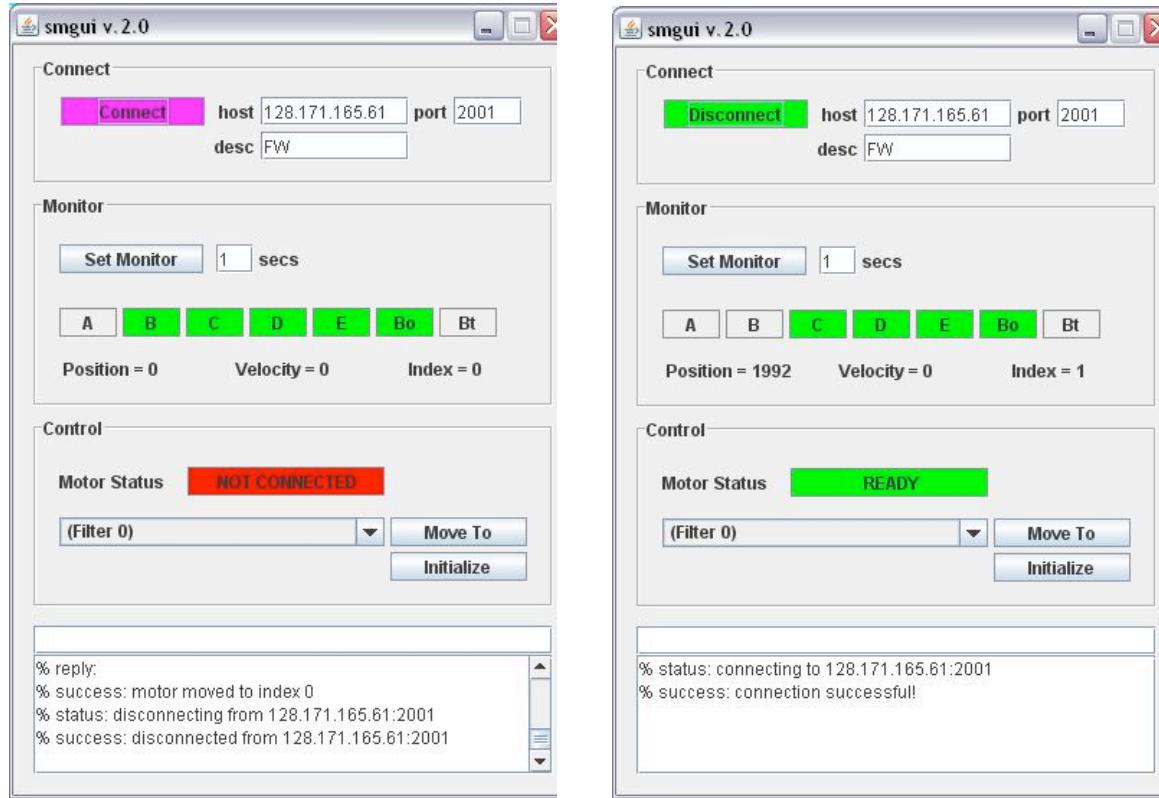


Figure 6. The filter wheel GUI. (left) Upon start up, the “connect” button is highlighted and must be pressed to gain control. **(right)** Once connected, the desired filter can be selected from the drop-down menu located under in the “Control” section.

DATA TRANSFER

Currently, the only method to transfer data is to use WinSCP. There is an icon for this program on the desktop, from which you can connect to a local machine and transfer data. This process *must* be done from the POETS computer and does take a long time.

SpeX data are in the directory /scrs1/. They are compressed after 5 days and deleted after 14 days (although the data are permanently archived weekly). Data should transferred to a local machine using sftp, scp, or rsync.

Xx need a more permanent methodology for this, given other users

FORE-OPTICS AND MOUNTING Box

Adjustment of the z-extension

The camera can be focused by adjusting the “z-extension”. This is the threaded plate system at the base of the box. This system is comprised of three components: (i) an inner-threaded aluminum piece (32 threads per inch), (ii) an outer-threaded steel plate which screws into (i) allowing for a range of xx inches vertical motion, and (iii) an aluminum base plate which attaches to (i) and the camera. Component (ii) sets the camera height and can be adjusted via threading. By loosening the sliding attachments between components (i) and (iii), the camera is decoupled and can move in the z-direction without rotation.

In practice, the sliders on component (iii) are loosened and the camera is allowed to drop to the lowest position. Component (ii) is threaded into or out of component (i) to the desired height. The camera and component (iii) are then lifted until flush with component (ii) (there is a fitted groove between components (ii) and (iii) in order for the connection to be light tight), and the sliding attachments on component (iii) are tightened to hold the camera in place.

The system *should* be setup to be cofocal with SpeX. Different filters should not effect the focus to a detectable degree. Therefore, the focus should not require adjustment during regular use.

Important note: The focusing system was designed to allow for maximum range. If the camera is lifted to the highest position, the mount for lenses 2 & 3 could impact the shutter and/or camera window. Be careful!

Adjustment of mount for lenses 2 & 3

The mount for lenses 2 & 3 was designed to be adjustable in the *z* direction. Thus, the mounting component screws into the mounting bracket with threads of 14 per inch. Optimal alignment places the top of lens 2 in the middle of the mounting bracket. This should not need to be adjusted during regular use.

See the important note under “adjustment of the *z* extension” concerning adjustment of this mount.

COMPUTER

The computer for this system is a Shuttle G5 6800 (SN68PTG5), configured with an Athlon dual-core 2.6GHz processor, two 2GB RAM, and two 150GB SATA 10,000 rpm hard drives. The goal is to setup the hard drives such that if one drive fails, the system can be run independently on the other drive.

A second computer was purchased for use with the IRTF POETS, a Shuttle G5 6800 (SN68PTG5), configured with an Athlon dual-core 2.6GHz processor, two 2GB RAM,

and two 150GB SATA 10,000 rpm hard drives. The camera software is incompatible with this computer, and we are currently investigating the reason.

Two-hard-drive setup

IRTF POETS computers have Windows XP Pro. (32-bit) installed on two separate hard drives. Details on how to enable disk drives, change the boot order, and install windows separately on each drive are below.

- To get to the computer BIOS, hold down the “del” key upon startup, when Shuttle screen is viewable. Select “Advanced” and “Boot configuration” to change the order of the start up disks.
- If the disk is new, or there is a need to reinstall windows, simply select the desired drive as the first boot drive and insert the Windows CD. You will be prompted to boot from the disk.
- To see disk drives and their configuration, go to Start⇒Control Panel⇒Administrative Tools⇒Computer Management⇒Disk Management. Can see drives, enable and disable, and change path letters by right clicking on them. “Drive Management” shows all hardware.

(note: must be in “Classic View” of control panel to see Admin. Tools)

We *cannot* set up the computers such that each drive is bootable as “C:/” and has camera & GPS software preinstalled (thus having the capability to run POETS from either drive). There are two reasons for this issue: (i) installed software often assumes the C: filepath, and installations on the second drive **will** place critical files on the first drive and will thus not function if the first drive fails, and (ii) the Andor software should not be installed more than once on any system. The solution is to maintain a software installation folder on the second drive (called “E:/” when booting off of the first drive). If the first drive fails, then the second drive should boot. The critical software can then be installed and the system should be able to function.

Setup notes for new windows system:

- To get network to function, the software on the nvidia disk must be installed. It contains drivers for Ethernet, audio, etc. It also contains Adobe Reader 8.1.
- Set IP address using an extra from our group:

18.83.3.196 (Exoplanet)
255.255.255.0.0 (Mask)
18.83.0.1 (Router)
18.70.0.160, 18.71.0.151 (DNS Servers)

Used Internet Explorer (from start menu) to install Firefox. Then, downloaded and installed WinSCP and ds9, then installed Solis 4.6.5.0 (copied installation file from ASTRON).

- The software installation folder on MIT's ASTRON server contains software for the Andor camera, GPS, VNC, and Virus protection. These should all be installed.

Autologin setup

To allow the computer to automatically login on start up (or to disable this feature) use the following process:

- Start > Run and type “regedit”.
- Locate the registry key HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\WindowsNT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon and double click the *DefaultUserEntry*, then type user name
- Double click on *DefaultPassword* and enter password
- Double click on *AutoAdminLogin* and under *ValueData* enter “1” for automatic or “0” for non-automatic login
- Note: if *DefaultPassword* or *AutoAdminLogin* values do not exist, simply use Edit > New > String Value to create them
- Must restart for these changes to take effect

Software

The following software is installed on the primary hard drive of the POETS instrument computer:

<i>Program</i>	<i>Function</i>	<i>License Information</i>
Adobe Reader v. 8.1	.pdf viewer	free
*Andor Solis v. 4.8.3.002	camera control	Purchased with camera
*SAOImage ds9 v. 5.2	.fits viewer	free
FireFox	internet browser	free
*WinScp v. 4.3.1	file transfer	free
*Spectrum TM-4 controller v.1.36	GPS controller	Purchased with GPS
VirusScan Enterprise 8.5i	Virus protection	MIT
VNC Dimension	remote login	IRTF

*Installers for this software are also located in a folder on the desktop of the second hard drive.

CAMERA

The camera for this system is an Andor Technology iXon. It is an off-the-shelf camera, with a back-illuminated, frame-transfer CCD (512 x 512, with 16 μm square pixels).

	Model	Serial Number
Camera:	DU-897E-CS0-#BV	X-3020
CCD:	E2V TECH CCD97	05445-04-23
PCI Card:	CCI -22	C-1188-B

Cooling

The camera housing contains a thermoelectric cooler. This cooler is powered via a 2.1 mm Jack connector which goes through an adapter (Input: 100-250 V, 47-63 Hz, 0.4 A, Output: 7.5 V, 4.0 A) and to a standard 120 V U.S. plug.

The minimum cooling depends on ambient temperature. For reference, at 68°F the camera has a minimum cooling of -60°C. An alarm will sound if the camera overheats, which can happen if the air vents are blocked.

Additional cooling can be achieved through water cooling; however, this method has not been tested for the IRTF POETS system.

PCI interface

The controller card for the camera is a 3/4-size PCI card. The camera-computer cable is 6-m long and has proprietary 36-way connectors. PCI card and cable are provided by Andor Technology.

Trigger cable

The external trigger cable is $50\ \Omega$ with an SMB on the camera end and a BNC on the user end. The input is TTL level and CMOS compatible and has $470\ \Omega$ impedance. The camera comes with a standard, approximately 6-ft long cable. This system uses a custom 20-ft cable (RG174) from Stonewall Cable, Inc. with 1.54 nsec/ft delay.

GPS

The GPS for this system is a Spectrum Instruments, Inc. Intelligent Reference TM-4. A complete user manual is located online at http://occult.mit.edu/_graphics/POETS/info/TM4manual.pdf and hard copies are at the IRTF and MIT.

The GPS is connected to the computer, trigger cable, and power via an octopus serial cable. A serial connection goes to the computer, a BNC connection from the “output” octopus cable goes to the “external trigger” SMB on the camera, and power comes from an adapter (Input: 120-140 V, 0.4 A, Output: 24 V, 0.4 A) with a standard 120 V U.S. plug. A BNC cable runs from the “antenna” GPS port to the GPS antenna mounted at the top of the telescope. This is a 50-ft RG-58 cable, with 1.54 nsec/ft delay.

Screen shots and operating notes to follow in the next version.